

Urban District of Redditch.

ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

Health and Sanitary Circumstances
of Redditch,

FOR THE YEAR 1908,

BY

JAMES STEVENSON, M.B., D.P.H.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

WITH THE

Annual Report of the Sanitary Inspector,

WILLIAM JAMESON

(Assoc. Roy. San. Inst.)

REDDITCH :

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REDDITCH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1908.

To the Chairman and Members of the Redditch Urban
District Council.

Redditch is situated on the eastern boundary of the County of Worcester. It includes Redditch Parish and parts of Upper Ipsley and Feckenham Urban Parishes.

The district is on the Keuper marl, subsoil is also marl.

Height above ordnance datum varies from 330 to 550 feet.

The chief industries are the manufacture of needles, pins, fishing tackle and cycles.

Inhabited houses (1901 census), 2,920.

Inhabited houses (December, 1908). 3,475.

Inhabitants per house (1901 census), 4.6.

Total assessable value, £47,367 10s. 5d.

Increase from year 1907, £853 11s. 7d.

Population in 1891, 11,294.

Population in 1901, 13,493.

Population (estimated) in June, 1908, 15,340.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1908.						Average of last ten years.	
Birth-rate	...	...	...	25.8	per 1,000	...	28.6
Death-rate	...	...	...	12.1	"	...	13.3
Zymotic Death-rate	...	...	...	0.7	"	...	1.7
Phthisis	"	...	...	1.0	"	...	1.0
Measles	"	...	...	0.0	"	...	0.1
Scarlatina	"	...	...	0.0	"	...	0.08
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	0.2	"	...	0.2
Diarrhœa	"	...	...	0.4	"	...	0.7
Cancer	"	...	...	0.5	"	...	0.7
Fever	"	...	...	0.06	"	...	0.09
Smallpox	"	...	...	0.0	"	...	0.0
Respiratory	"	...	...	2.6	"	...	2.5
Infantile Mortality Figure	...	95	"	births			152

GENTLEMEN,—

In presenting the Annual Health Report, I have to congratulate you on the steady improvement in the sanitary condition of the district, as shown by the low rate of Infantile Mortality, low general death-rate, absence of notifiable infectious diseases, particularly enteric fever, and the many changes for the better made in drains, yards, houses, etc., as tabulated in the Inspector's report.

The year began badly, severe cold weather being experienced in January, with the result that respiratory diseases were very prevalent, and for the month we had the abnormally high death-rate of 25.8 per 1,000.

Again, during March, owing to influenza, the death-rate was above the average, but the succeeding months each yielded a low rate.

Last year I remarked on the low rate of infantile mortality, and the small number of infectious cases notified. This year I can draw your attention to even better results in these two matters.

Especially is this gratifying with regard to the saving of life among infants, for, like the rest of the country, our birth-rate is showing a yearly decrease.

However much we may deplore a low birth-rate, it is obviously the outcome of economic forces and social habits, over which a sanitary authority can hope to exercise little or no controlling influence. One thing, however, we can do, we can neutralise its untoward effects by adopting every measure in our power to diminish the infantile death-rate, and to secure an improved physique amongst the children that survive.

A moderate birth-rate with a low child mortality may do as much toward the upkeep of the population as a high birth-rate, associated with a high child mortality.

Owing to the general depression in trade, fewer houses were erected in 1908 than in the past years, but the number of inhabited houses is now 3,475, as compared with 2,920 in 1901, an increase of over 500 in seven years. The poorer class of housing has needed a good deal of attention during the year.

Many of the houses are old, but certainly not uninhabitable, and where clean people live they are kept in good sanitary condition. But, unfortunately, in some of them there "exists" a class who live from hand to mouth, allowing things to go to rack and ruin, despising ventilation so that they may have warmth, and generally breeding filth and disease.

Our endeavour has been to keep these houses, yards and pavements as clean and sweet as possible, remove refuse, etc., frequently, and in the necessary cases require the long-suffering landlords to repair drains, roofing, etc. The supervision over the erection of new houses is all that could be desired.

SCHOOLS.

Since the erection of the Temporary Schools in Holyoake's Field district any over-crowding in the various schools in the town has been prevented, and in all cases the average attendance is under the actual accommodation. At the end of the year 2,644 children attended the six public schools, 263 being infants under five years of age. The system of medical school inspection which has been inaugurated during the year cannot fail to have beneficent results. If the best results are to be obtained, however, there will have to be designed some form of systematised treatment of the children who are found to require it. Dr. Fosbroke has not yet issued his first report, so that I am unable to give you any local figures or facts.

With few exceptions all houses now have the water supplied by the East Worcestershire Waterworks Company, which supply has always up to the present been found wholesome and free from pollution. A few wells are still in existence, samples from those where pollution was suspected were taken during the year, and in cases where analysis showed any pollution the owners were persuaded to close and fill up the wells.

The dairies and cowsheds in the town have been frequently inspected, and on the whole are satisfactory. Nine-tenths of the milk sold, however, comes from dairies and cowsheds which are outside our district. It is to be regretted we have no power of inspection over these cowsheds, and thus endeavour to ensure that cleanliness and purity, necessitated in a town like Redditch where so great a proportion of infants are bottle-fed.

In the words of John Burns, "The time has come when we need a larger, cleaner and better milk supply, especially in the instance of the children of our large towns." Over twenty samples of milk were taken on various occasions, but analysis proved that all were up to standard. No examinations for "tubercle bacilli" were made.

Of other foods, the only prosecution during the year was one for selling unsound fish. The seller was severely penalised. Under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act, about 60 samples of food, etc., were taken in shops, no prosecution being necessary, except in one minor case of drugs.

POPULATION.

The population in June, 1908, as calculated by the method of the Registrar-General, was 15,340. It is increasing apparently by about 260 per year. The estimated population in June, 1909, will be 15,600.

BIRTHS.

The births totalled 396—Males 185, females 211. The birth-rate is thus equal to 25.8 per 1,000 of the population, which compares badly with 28.6, our average of the past ten years. The rate for all England and Wales for the year was 26.5 per 1,000.

DEATHS.

The deaths of “residents” occurring, not only in the district, but in public institutions outside (Bromsgrove Infirmary, etc), mounted up to 187—Males 104, females 83.

The “net” death-rate is 12.1 per 1,000, which though not quite so low as that of last year, is 1.2 lower than our average of ten years past.

Respiratory Diseases were the cause of a great proportion of the deaths, especially in the first quarter of the year.

Phthisis, too, gives us a larger figure this year. Diarrhœa is about average. On the other hand, the deaths from cancer, from premature birth and congenital debility, from measles, scarlatina and diphtheria were fewer.

Table IV. sets out the causes of, and age at, death. The chief were :—

Respiratory Diseases	...	...	...	...	40—last year, 31
Heart Diseases	...	...	...	...	28— „ 11
Phthisis	...	...	...	...	16— „ 10
All Zymotic Diseases	...	...	...	...	12— „ 6
Cancer	...	...	...	...	9— „ 15
Premature Birth and Congenital Debility	...	...	...	...	12— „ 28

Of the 187 deaths 57 or 30 per cent. occurred in old people over 65 years of age, and 38 in infants under one year of age. I have records back to 1886, and only once, 1894, has there been such a small number of infant deaths in a year. Our Infantile Mortality figure, by which is meant the number of deaths which occur under one year of age as compared with 1,000 births in the district, is, as it should be, under 100—being 95. There is additional pleasure in recording this for as you know, we have striven for years against many adverse circumstances to lessen the high death-rate of babies in this town.

The County Council, by appointing a Health Missioner to work among the mothers and children, deserve our thanks, and I take this opportunity of congratulating them and the Health Missioner on the excellent result of their endeavours.

The following particulars from the Missioner's Report are of interest :—

Houses visited, 396.

Lessons given in infant bathing, 67.

Re-visits paid, 2,201.

“Of the 396 mothers 113 went to work daily in factories, and 62 more were “out-workers.”

“The feeding of infants generally has been more satisfactory. I visit every infant as soon as possible after birth, and urge the trial of maternal feeding, but find that in the majority of cases six to eight weeks is the limit to which the mothers' strength will last. There is a rapidly increasing physical inability amongst women to breast-feed their infants. In some insanitary and back-to-back houses the problem of storing the milk arises, for the poor have no pantries, and milk, whether sterilised or unsterilised, soon becomes contaminated.

“Of the total number of deaths (38) nine were breast-fed, seven had breast and bottle, and 17 were fed on artificial food entirely. On the whole, the houses of the working people were decidedly cleaner, but, in 16 houses where infants died, the domestic sanitation was bad.”

The death-rate for England and Wales in 1908 was 14.7 per 1,000 of the population, and the infant mortality 121 per 1,000 births. Our figures, being respectively 12.1 and 95, compare very favourably.

Notifiable and other zymotic diseases need little discussion, as only 21 notifications were received during the twelve months, and the only zymotic affection which was at all prevalent was whooping cough. This disease caused four deaths, cases cropping up all over the town at various intervals of time.

Diarrhœa caused seven deaths. One death was certified as due to enteric fever, but this case occurred in a “resident” of Redditch who was temporarily placed in a public institution outside the district. The disease was contracted some months after the patient left the town and the death took place in the public institution.

No case of Typhoid arose in the district.

A good deal of true influenza was present in February and March, and five deaths are assigned to this cause.

Measles, almost entirely absent, no death ; Scarlatina, only five cases, no death ; Diphtheria, four cases, no death ; Erysipelas, 10 cases, no death.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

The following are the payments made for the year 1908 :—

			£	s.	d.
Maintenance of patients	...	...	33	5	1
Precepts	...	...	372	12	0
Total—			£405	17	1

The Phthisis death-rate in a town the size of Redditch is sure to vary, and this year it is somewhat higher (1.0 per 1,000) than it has been for a few years past. I think this is due to the fact that we have had several deaths of chronic fibroid cases—legacies, so to speak, of the old “needle-pointing” days. With modern machinery, removal by fans of irritating dust, etc., I doubt if the present generation of “pointers” and “grinders” run any more risk of developing phthisis than the average indoor worker.

No system of the notification of pulmonary tuberculosis, voluntary or compulsory, is in operation, but in view of the fact that much good could be done in the way of prevention of the spread of this disease a voluntary system of notification of phthisis in the district would be beneficial.

In all cases of death from phthisis during the year the premises were fumigated and disinfected.

The Midwives Act is administered in the district, under the supervision of the County Council. I have not heard of any complaints during the year.

So far the county authorities have not put in force the Notification of Births Act, but I believe the necessary steps will shortly be taken.

GENERAL SANITARY WORK.

As the time of the Sanitary Inspector was not taken up by looking after outbreaks of infectious disease, he was able to concentrate his energy and effect more sanitary improvements than in past years. Visits to the slaughter houses, bakehouses, cow-houses, etc., have been frequent and alterations where necessary have been made. Many sanitary improvements in houses, out-buildings and yards have been accomplished. For instance, seven houses in George Street have been provided with new drains; two houses in Ipsley Street re-drained and the outbuildings of nine houses put in good order; Worcester Road, two privy middens abolished and w.c.'s substituted; Evesham Street, pan closets of four houses abolished and w.c.'s put in; Walford Street, three houses, new drains, yards paved, washhouses repaired, new sinks fixed; Beoley Road, five houses re-drained, and Silver Street, all houses repaired, re-papered, limewashed, etc.

MIDDENS.

Two in Worcester Road have been done away with, and water-closets substituted. This leaves 11 middens remaining in the area.

PAN CLOSETS.

There are still about 1,500 in use. The emptying of these and the removal of their contents incurs a large yearly expenditure of the ratepayers' money.

Certainly in the crowded Central Ward many of them ought to be done away with, even if the work was carried out at the ratepayers' expense.

HOUSE REFUSE.

The Refuse Destructor has now been at work for a year and has cremated about 4,640 tons of house and trade refuse. Owing to the up-to-date method of dealing with this refuse not a single complaint has been made of nuisance arising from it. Indeed, the destructor had been at work many months before the public were aware of the fact. The saving of time in carting to a central site, instead of to the suburbs, has made it possible to collect the refuse nearly three times as often as formerly.

I am indebted to the Surveyor for the results of the official test carried out under his supervision on November 18th, 1908.

Duration of Test	7½ hours
Number of Cells under Test	3 (1 unit)
Total Refuse Burnt	16.44 tons
Rate of Burning per Hour	2.10 tons

Equivalent rate of Burning—

Over 24 Hours	52.60 tons
Total Clinker	3.33 tons
Percentage of Clinker to Refuse	20.23%
Average Steam Pressure	160lbs.
Total Water Evaporated	5,834 galls.

Average Rate of Evaporation—

Per Hour over whole test	777.9 galls.
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Maximum Temperature of Combustion—

Chamber	2,354* Fah.
Minimum ditto	1,688* Fah.
Average ditto	1,985* Fah.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

Your Surveyor has prepared a complete bacterial scheme (to replace the old one of broad irrigation) for the purification of the sewage, not only for the present population of 15,600, but for an increased population of 25,000. The existing land has been made full use of, with the result that the land about to be purchased will be available for dealing with sludge, and in reserve for future extensions.

The irrigation farms will be given up on completion of the existing works, that is, in about two years' time. The new works will consist of storm-water tanks, screening and grit chambers, liquefying tanks, bacterial filters, and sludge lagoons. The estimated cost of the works, including the purchase of 14 acres of land, is £15,000.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT.

The sanitary accommodation in all the factories in your district is up to the required standard. The workshops have been frequently visited, and the ventilation, accommodation, cleanliness, etc., attended to.

As the lists of "out-workers" have not been sent in as they should be by the manufacturers and shopkeepers an advertisement calling their attention to the Act has been inserted in the local papers. This is sure to have the required result.

TABLE I.

VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING
1908 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

YEAR	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Births		TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.				Total deaths in Public Institutions in the district.	Deaths of Non- residents registered in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of residents registered in Public Institutions beyond the District.	NET DEATHS AT ALL AGES BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT	
		Number	Rate.*	Under 1 year of age†		At all ages.					Number	Rate.*
				Number	Rate per 1,000 Births registered.	Number	Rate.*					
I	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1898	12,894	388	30.0	73	188	209	16.2	9				
1899	13,112	388	29.5	65	170	184	14.0	8				
1900	13,330	392	29.4	78	198	264	19.8	6				
1901	13,550	418	30.8	62	148	184	13.5	10				
1902	13,784	403	29.2	63	156	183	13.2	10	3	3	183	13.2
1903	14,039	405	28.8	55	135	181	12.8	10	6	9	184	13.1
1904	14,289	367	25.6	59	160	179	12.5	12	6	9	182	12.1
1905	14,543	384	26.4	39	101	212	14.5	5	1	14	225	15.4
1906	14,800	430	29.0	66	153	204	13.7	6	1	10	213	14.3
1907	15,070	406	27.6	46	113	162	11.0	5	2	11	171	11.3
Averages for years 1898-1907	13,941	398	28.6	60	152	196	14.1	8	(Six years' av'ge) 3	9	(6 y'rs av'ge) 193	13.3
1908	15,340	396	25.8	38	95	177	11.5	8	4	14	187	12.1

*Rates in columns 4, 8, and 13 calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water) 1,023 acres.

Total Population at all ages	13,493	} At Census of 1901.
Number of inhabited houses	2,920	
Average Number of Persons per house	4.6	

Institutions within the District receiving sick and infirm persons from outside the District—Smallwood Hospital.

Institutions outside the District receiving sick and infirm persons from the District—Workhouse and Infirmary, Bromsgrove; ditto, Alcester.

Is the Union Workhouse within the District?—No.

TABLE III.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1908.

Notifiable Disease.	Cases notified in Whole District.							Total Cases Removed to Hospital.
	At all Ages.	At Ages —Years.						
		Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 65	65 and upwards	
Small-pox								
Cholera								
Diphtheria including Membranous Croup	4		1	3				4
Erysipelas	10				1	7	2	
Scarlet Fever	5			5				4
Typhus Fever ..								
Enteric Fever.. ..								
Relapsing Fever ..								
Continued Fever ..	1					1		
Puerperal Fever ..	1					1		
Plague								
Totals ..	21		1	8	1	9	2	8

Bromsgrove, Droitwich and Redditch Joint Isolation Hospital, Hill Top, Bromsgrove.

Total available beds, 30.

Diseases that can be concurrently treated :—Scarlatina, Diphtheria, Enteric.

TABLE IV.

CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH DURING YEAR
1908.

CAUSES OF DEATHS.	Deaths at the subjoined ages of "Residents," whether occurring in or beyond the District.							Deaths in the Small- wood Hos- pital.
	All Ages.	Under 1	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and up- wards.	
Smallpox								
Measles								
Scarlet Fever ..								
Whooping Cough ..	4	3	1					
Diphtheria and Mem- branous Croup ..								
Croup								
Fevers } Typhus ..								
} Enteric ..	1					1		
} Other Contin'd ..								
Epidemic Influenza ..	5					4	1	
Cholera								
Plague								
Diarrhœa	7	6			1			
Enteritis	3						3	
Puerperal Fever ..	1					1		
Erysipelas								
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis) ..	16				3	12	1	
Other Tubercular Disease	5		1		1	3		
Cancer, Malignant Disease	9					7	2	
Bronchitis	19	4	1			3	11	
Pneumonia	19	6	3	1		6	3	
Pleurisy	1					1		
Other Diseases of Res- piratory Organs ..	1						1	
Alcoholism) ..								
Cirrhosis of Liver) ..								
Venereal Diseases ..								
Premature Birth ..	6	6						
Heart Diseases ..	28	2	2		1	13	10	
Accidents	4			1		3		2
Suicides	2					2		1
Convulsions	3	2	1					
Congenital Debility ..	6	6						
Senile Decay	12						12	
All other causes ..	35	3		1	2	15	14	5
All Causes	187	38	9	3	8	71	57	8

TABLE V.

INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1908.

Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks and Months under One Year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.		Under 1 Wk.	1-2 Weeks	2-3 Weeks	3-4 Weeks	Total Under 1 Month	1-2 Months	2-3 Months	3-4 Months	4-5 Months	5-6 Months	6-7 Months	7-8 Months	8-9 Months	9-10 Months	10-11 Months	11-12 Months	Total Deaths under One Year.
Common Infectious Diseases.	Smallpox	..																
	Chickenpox	..																
	Measles	..																
	Scarlet Fever	..																
	Diphtheria (including membranous croup) ..	..																
	Whooping Cough ..	..					1			2								3
	Diarrhoea, all forms ..	..						1	2	1		2						6
	Enteritis	..																
	Gastritis	..																
	Premature Birth	..	3	1	1	1	6											6
	Congenital Defects ..	..								1								1
	Injury at Birth	..																
	Want of Breast Milk ..	..																
	Atrophy, Debility ..	..																
	Marasmus	..	6			6												6
	Tuberculous Meningitis ..	..																
	Tuberculous Peritonitis ..	..																
	Other Tuberculous Diseases	..																
Tuberculous Diseases.	Erysipelas	..																
	Syphilis	..																
	Rickets	..																
	Meningitis	..													1			1
	Convulsions	..	1				1								1			2
	Bronchitis	..								1		2					1	4
	Laryngitis	..																
	Pneumonia	..							1		1	1			1		2	6
	Suffocation, Overlying ..	..																
	Other Causes	..	1	1		2					1							3
ALL CAUSES		..	11	2	1	1	15	1	1	3	5	2	5		3		3	38

Population estimated to middle of 1908, 15,340. Births in the year, 396.

Deaths in the year of infants, 38. Deaths from all causes at all ages, 187.

INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT OF REDDITCH.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my Ninth Annual Report, giving a review of the Sanitary Work undertaken and carried out during the year ending December 31st, 1908.

During the year under notice it was not necessary to take any legal proceedings to obtain the compliance of the notices issued under the Public Health Acts.

In some cases there was a little delay in the work being carried out, but when it was known that further proceedings would follow if the notices were not complied with, the cases referred to received immediate attention.

The Sanitary Improvements that have been carried out during the past year, are above the average of those effected in recent years. Many drains have been tested, and examined upon request of the owners, and although in some cases the drains had only been in use for about twelve or fourteen years, they were found to be defective. In one instance the drains were found to be in such a bad state that when the floors were taken up it was found that the space between the earth and boards was nearly a foot deep in sewage, and as there had been several cases of sore throats in the house, it is fair to assume that the provision of a new system of drainage has been the means of preventing illness of a more serious nature.

It may be mentioned that in the case referred to the cause of the trouble in the first place arose from the ground being "made;" wooden slabs had been placed upon brick pillars to carry the drain, and as the joints had not been made secure, the water in consequence escaped from the pipes and percolated into the ground, and in time caused the timber to perish, and as subsidence followed, the drain was practically disconnected from the sewer, which caused the filth to accumulate under the house floor.

NOTICES.

Two hundred and thirty-three notices were served for the abatement of nuisances and for general sanitary improvement.

Of this number twenty seven were final or legal notices, two hundred and six were preliminary or formal.

There were six notices outstanding at the end of the year, the smallest number for the past seven years.

The appended table shows the nature of the notices issued :—

LIST OF NOTICES ISSUED DURING THE YEAR.

NATURE OF NOTICE.	No. Issued.	No. Out- standing
Defective and Choked Drains	17	
" " " Water Closets	7	1
" " Foul Privies	31	2
" Sinks	8	
" Yard Pavements	2	
" Eave and Fall Spouts	21	
" Bell and Dip Traps	4	
" Ashpits or Ashbins	7	
" House Roofs, Walls, Floors or Ceilings	11	
Houses without Proper Drains	5	
Accumulations of Manure or Pig-Wash	20	
Animals or Fowls improperly kept	18	2
Houses in Filthy Condition	4	
Dilapidated Washhouses or Closets	7	
Drains not trapped or Ventilated	4	
Defective Privy Middens	2	
Rain-water Tanks in Foul Condition	2	
Nuisances from Disused Wells	3	
Houses requiring Ventilation	5	
Sanitary Conveniences without Water Supply ...	6	
Yards and Courts in filthy condition	5	
Want of Proper Ashpits or Ashbins	3	
Houses Over-crowded	12	1
Want of Efficient Closet Accommodation	5	
House Cellars in Dirty Condition	2	
Sink Waste Pipes Connected to Drains	3	
Depositing Filth in Streets	19	
	233	6

SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS.

The following sanitary improvements have been effected :—

- 11 new water closets provided.
- 2 additional pail closets.
- 31 houses re-drained.
- 52 choked drains cleansed.
- 30 water closets repaired.
- 33 drains repaired.
- 11 disconnecting traps fixed.
- 5 fresh air inlets fixed.
- 16 inspection chambers built.
- 55 sanitary gullies fixed.
- 2 agricultural pipe drains abolished.
- 14 glazed sinks fixed.
- 30 new sink pipes fixed.
- 18 old brick sinks abolished.
- 42 refuse receptacles, ashpits provided or repaired.
- 9 ventilation shafts fixed.
- 21 defective bell traps abolished.
- 16 Yard pavements repaired or re-laid.
- 13 open catchpits abolished.
- 46 eave and rain spouts repaired or renewed.
- 53 accumulations of manure removed.
- 36 nuisances from pigs abated.
- 6 water-wasting cases reported.
- 14 over-crowding cases abated.
- 2 smoke nuisances modified upon request.
- 11 house roofs repaired.
- 6 closets provided with flushing arrangements.
- 10 rain-water tanks cleansed.
- 12 rain-water tanks filled up.
- 17 disused wells filled up.
- 39 houses cleansed and whitewashed.
- 2 privy middens abolished.

CLERICAL.

Three hundred and sixty-three letters were written with reference to sanitary work. Of this number one hundred and eighteen were letters of recommendation, suggesting various sanitary improvements being carried out.

This system again proved very effective in obtaining the desired results, as in only eight cases did the committee have to order notices being given, after these letters had been sent.

The friction that is thus avoided more than compensates for the trouble incurred.

PRIVY MIDDENS.

The number of privy middens in use has been reduced to eleven, two in Worcester Road having been abolished during the year. Water closets were substituted, which were provided with new drains, ventilation shafts and suitable flushing arrangements, etc.

WATER SUPPLY.

A sample of well water taken from premises in Evesham Street was submitted to the County Analyst for analysis, who recommended the well from which the sample was taken being emptied and cleansed, as the water was of bad colour, and was suspicious. This was done, but the water did not show any improvement. The owner was then persuaded to provide the East Worcestershire Waterworks' water.

Eight houses were supplied with the Waterworks' water during the year.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

There are the same number in use as last year, viz., seven.

They have received regular visits and, with one exception, have been well kept.

In the case referred to the occupier had allowed the refuse to accumulate, but upon request the matter received proper attention.

UNSOUND MEAT, FISH, ETC.

The inspection of meat has received my careful attention ; and it is pleasing to report that it was not necessary to seize any.

The Fish Market has been kept under close observation. Each Saturday two or more visits were made to the market. In July I had occasion, after examining the fish exposed for sale in the market, to seize 102lbs. of fish, it being in a state of decomposition. The fish was examined by the Medical Officer of Health, and a Justice of the Peace, who ordered it to be destroyed.

Fourteen notices of occupation of workshops were received, five having become void during the year, gives nine less in occupation than the previous year.

The list of out-workers has been kept as complete as possible. Some of the manufacturers have not sent their lists of out-workers as is required, in consequence of which it has again been decided to advertise the requirements of this Act.

According to the returns supplied there are one hundred and twenty-one persons employed at home. The houses have been visited, and little fault could be found with the premises where the work was done.

Boxmaking was the only trade to which any exception could be taken, the causes of complaint were due to the offensive smell emanating from the glue. A little advice as to the storage of same and better ventilation rendered further complaints unnecessary.

SHOP HOURS ACT.

Several enquiries were made under this Act, but no contraventions have been found.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS ORDERS.

Under these Orders there are fifty-three persons registered, being one more than last year.

The purveyors of milk and cowkeepers in the district have been ready to carry out suggestions for the improvement of their premises. The practice of keeping new milk and utensils in living rooms, and cellars used for the storage of coal, is abolished, and in most cases wooden erections provided with ventilation, etc., have been erected for the purpose.

Eight samples of new milk were taken and submitted to the County Analyst for analysis who reported that all the samples were genuine and free from adulteration.

In one case the Analyst suggested another sample being sent from the same dairy for analysis at a later date.

BAKEHOUSES.

There are twenty-two bakehouses in occupation, the same number as last year.

Regular visits have been made to the premises. In seven instances it was necessary to order limewashing, one to provide a new floor, and another better ventilation.

Only one formal notice was needed, the remainder were complied with upon request.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There are three registered common lodging houses in the district.

There has been no need to complain of the manner in which they have been kept. Although the buildings are old the tenants have done their best to keep them in a cleanly condition, having limewashed and cleansed them regularly.

STORM WATER DRAINS.

Only one house drain has been found to connect to the storm water. It has been connected to the foul sewer and is now satisfactory.

SMOKE OBSERVATIONS.

Twelve smoke observations have been taken. In two cases where black smoke was emitted for longer periods than five minutes in an hour, a letter was sent to the owners, pointing out the nuisance. This proved sufficient to obtain an improvement.

DISINFECTION.

As in other years, all premises have been disinfected after infectious disease, as well as any premises where there had been a case of phthisis or any illness where the Medical attendant advised it being done.

Again thanking you for your kind support and consideration shown me during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

WILLIAM JAMESON,

(Ass. Roy. San. Inst.)

February, 1909.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, LAUNDRIES, WORK- PLACES, AND HOMEWORK.

1.—INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, AND WORKPLACES, Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspector or Inspectors of Nuisances.

PREMISES. (1)	Number of		
	Inspections. (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Prosecutions. (4)
Factories—including Factory Laundries	109	3	
Workshops—including Workshop Laundries	313	38	
Workplaces (other than Outworkers' premises included in Part 3 of this Report)	8	1	
Total	430	42	

2.—DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

PARTICULARS. (1)	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecu- tions. (5)
	Found. (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector. (4)	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—</i>				
Want of cleanliness	34	34		
Want of ventilation	9	9		
Overcrowding	5	5		
Want of drainage of floors... ..	1	1		
Other nuisances	19	19	3	
Sanitary Accommodation { insufficient	5	5		
{ unsuitable or defective	3	3	1	
{ not separate for sexes	4	4	1	
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Act :—</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse				
Breach of special sanit. requirements for bakehouses				
Other offences				
(excluding offences relating to outwork which are included in Part 3 of this Report).				
Total ...	80	80	5	

3.—HOME WORK.

Homework.—Lists received—Twice in the year—Lists, 9; Outworkers, 37. Once in the
year—Lists, 21; Outworkers, 121.

Number of addresses of Outworkers received from other Councils	5
Number of addresses of Outworkers forwarded to other Councils	17
Number of Inspections of Outworkers' premises	181
Outwork in unwholesome premises—Instances	4
Outwork in unwholesome premises—Notices served	3

4.—REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Workshops on the Register at the end of the year	...	...	...	...	244
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	21
Total number of Workshops on Register	...	—			265

5.—OTHER MATTERS.

MATTERS NOTIFIED TO H.M. INSPECTOR OF FACTORIES:—

Failure to affix Abstract of the Factory and Workshop Act	...	...	...	...	3
Action taken in matters referred by H.M. Inspector as remediable under the Public Health Acts, but not under the Factory and Workshop Act—					
Notified by H.M. Inspector	...	...	...	...	16
Reports (of action taken) sent to H.M. Inspector	...	...	...	...	13
Other	...	...	...	...	3

Underground Bakehouses :—

Certificates granted during the year	...	...	...	...	0
In use at the end of the year	...	...	...	...	0



